

B1 derivatives and mutants of strain 720/1. The invention also relates to a DNA molecule encoding a xylanase and to expression vectors or integration vectors containing the DNA molecule. This invention also relates to transformed host strains comprising the DNA molecule encoding the xylanase. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 - 6 and 19 - 24.

Replace claims 8 - 12, 15 - 18 and 25 - 30 with the following clean copy of said amended claims. A marked-up version of the amended claims is provided herein on a separate sheet.

8.(Amended) An isolated DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 1 which codes for the mature xylanase of *Bacillus* sp. 720/1 (LMG P-14798) or a modified sequence derived from this sequence.

B2 9.(Amended) An isolated DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 4 which codes for the *Bacillus* sp 720/1 xylanase precursor or a modified sequence derived from this sequence.

10.(Amended) An isolated DNA molecule comprising the *Bacillus* sp 720/2 xylanase gene as illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 10.

11.(Amended) The isolated DNA molecule according to Claim 32, wherein said DNA molecule comprises a promoter having the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 26 derived from the gene which codes for *Bacillus pumilus* B12 PRL xylanase and a presequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 27 which codes for the signal peptide of *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase.

12.(Amended) An expression vector or chromosomal integration vector comprising the DNA molecule according to Claim 8, 9, 10, 11, 32 or 33.

B3 15.(Amended) A transformed strain comprising the DNA molecule according to Claim 8, 9, 10, 11, 32 or 33.

16.(Amended) A transformed strain comprising the expression vector or chromosomal integration vector according to Claim 12, 13 or 14.

b3 17.(Amended) The transformed strain according to Claim 15 or 16, wherein said strain is a *Bacillus* strain.

18.(Amended) The transformed strain according to Claim 17, wherein said strain is a *Bacillus licheniformis* or *Bacillus pumilus* strain.

25.(Amended) A promoter comprising the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 26, wherein said promoter is derived from the gene which codes for *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase.

b3 26.(Amended) A presequence comprising the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 27 which codes for the signal peptide of *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase.

27.(Amended) An expression system which can be used for the production of a polypeptide, comprising:

- a) a promoter comprising the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 26 derived from the gene which codes for *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase,
- b) a sequence coding for a signal peptide, and
- c) a sequence encoding the polypeptide.

b4 28.(Amended) An expression system which can be used for the production of a polypeptide comprising:

- a) a promoter;
- b) a presequence having the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 27 which codes for the signal peptide of *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase, and
- c) a sequence encoding the polypeptide.

29.(Amended) An expression system which can be used for the production of a polypeptide comprising:

- a) a promoter having the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 26 derived from the gene which codes for *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase;

- b) a presequence having the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 27 which codes for the signal peptide of *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase,
c) a sequence encoding the polypeptide, and
d) a terminator sequence.

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cancel*

30. The expression system according to Claim 27, 28 or 29, wherein the polypeptide corresponds to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 which codes for *Bacillus* sp. 720/1 xylanase.

Please add the following new claims:

31. The isolated culture of claim 7, wherein the culture is *Bacillus* sp 720/1 (LMG P-14798).

32. The isolated DNA molecule of claim 8, wherein said DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

33. The isolated DNA molecule of claim 9, wherein said DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.

34. The expression system according to Claim 27, 28 or 29, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a protease, a lipase, a xylanase, a cellulase, an amylase and a pullulanase.

35. The expression system according to Claim 34, wherein said polypeptide is a xylanase.